



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Nina Bell, Executive Director
Northwest Environmental Advocates
P.O. Box 12187
Portland, OR 97212-0187

Dear Ms. Bell,

Thank you for your April 3, 2012 letter expressing the Northwest Environmental Advocates' concerns about the pace of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) ~~not honoring settlement commitments for the progress on Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program~~ and your May 2, 2012 letter questioning the federal agencies' interim finding as to the sufficiency of Oregon's agricultural programs.

Working with Oregon to achieve full approval of its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program is a priority for NOAA and EPA. NOAA and EPA recognize that the implementation-ready (IR) TMDL effort is a new and complicated undertaking; it will take time to develop and interim milestones may need to be adjusted as the process unfolds. We also have expressed our concern to DEQ about the slipping deadlines.

The IR TMDL effort is designed to address all major sources, including agriculture. ~~management measures (MMs).~~ The agencies will review the IR TMDL and consider its role in implementing Oregon's coastal nonpoint program for all sectors addressed by the IR TMDL. ~~plan to update the rationales in our final decision document to describe how the IR TMDLs will help, not just for the agricultural management measures (MMs), but for any MM affected by these IR TMDLs.~~

Both agencies will continue to work closely with DEQ to move its IR TMDL effort forward expeditiously and to enable the state to meet the other remaining conditions on its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

Sincerely,

John King, Acting Deputy Director
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource
Management
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

Michael Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds
Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 10

cc: Dick Pedersen, Director, DEQ
Bill Blosser, Chair, EQC
Greg Aldrich, Acting Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ
Gene Foster, Watershed Management Manager, DEQ
Patty Snow, Program Manager, Coastal Management Program, DLCD
David Powers, Regional Manager for Forests and Rangelands, EPA R10
Don Waye, EPA HQ
Allison Castellan, Coastal Management Specialist, NOAA